IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and add new Claims 24 to 29 and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A portable information storage medium loadable into an information processing device connected to a network, the information processing device adapted to execute software downloaded from the network, said portable information storage medium including a storage area for storing the software information including:

identification information on the software to be downloaded;

location information representing a location on the network at which the software to be downloaded is stored; and

secret information on a user who uses the software to be downloaded,

wherein the software is downloaded from the network in accordance with the software information stored in the storage area.

2. (Original) A portable information storage medium according to Claim 1, wherein, in the storage area, one or more of a product code, a version number, information on the location on the network of the software, and a license key, which includes a serial number and which indicates that the user is an authorized purchaser, are stored as the software information.

3. (Currently Amended) An information processing device comprising:

~~a communication unit adapted to communicate with a server terminal on a network;~~

a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit to which a portable information storage medium storing information on software to be acquired via the network is connected;

an information transfer unit adapted to download the software from ~~the~~ a server ~~terminal~~ on a network into ~~an internal~~ a storage medium ~~by using said communication unit~~ in accordance with the information on the software stored in the portable information storage medium;

~~a software storage unit adapted to store, in a software storage area of the internal storage medium, the software downloaded into the internal storage medium;~~

a software management unit adapted to manage the software ~~stored in the software storage area~~ downloaded into the storage medium; and

an external-storage-medium reading unit adapted to read predetermined information written in the portable information storage medium when the portable information storage medium is connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit.

4. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, from the predetermined information read from the portable information storage medium, software identification information and location information on a location on the network of the software are extracted and managed by said software management unit.

5. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 4, wherein, based on an instruction from said software management unit, said information transfer unit ~~uses said communication unit to access~~ accesses the server ~~terminal~~ by using the location information, and downloads, into the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium, software represented by the software identification information.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein said software management unit performs a software activating process for executing the software ~~stored in~~ downloaded into the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage- medium connecting unit, said software management unit performs a deletion process for deleting the software ~~stored in~~ downloaded into the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit while the software ~~stored in~~ downloaded into the ~~software~~ storage medium ~~area~~ is being executed, said software management unit performs a medium-unloading warning process, for warning a user by interrupting execution of the software ~~stored in~~ downloaded into the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium, and a user-input accepting process, for activating a user-input accepting state after the medium-unloading warning process is performed.

9. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is connected again after the medium-unloading warning process is performed, said software management unit performs an execution restarting process for restarting execution of the software.

10. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when the user selects termination of execution of the software in the user-input accepting state, said software management unit terminates execution of the software, and subsequently performs a software deletion process.

11. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit while the software downloaded into the storage medium is being executed, said software management unit continues execution of the software, and, when execution of the software is subsequently terminated by a user, said software management unit performs a process for deleting the software from the ~~internal~~ storage medium.

12. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein:

the ~~internal~~ storage medium includes a nonvolatile memory, a volatile memory, and internal storage;

said software management unit stores a device identification in the nonvolatile memory and stores user information, which is written by a user, in the internal storage; and

after the portable information storage medium connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connection unit ~~is loaded into said information processing device~~, said software management unit examines whether or not the device identification and the user information are written in the portable information storage medium, and, when the device identification and the user information are not written, said software management unit writes the device identification and the user information into the portable information storage medium.

13. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 12, wherein, after the portable information storage medium is connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connection unit ~~loaded into said information processing device~~, said software management unit examines whether or not the device identification and the user information are written in the portable information storage

medium, and, when the device identification and the user information are written, and said software management unit finds, by comparing a device identification stored internally in said information processing device and the device identification written in the portable information storage medium, identity between both device identifications, said software management unit initiates accessing of the server terminal.

14. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 4, wherein, when software represented by the software identification information is not downloaded into the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium, said software management unit executes a process for downloading the software into the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 14, wherein, after the software is downloaded into the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium, said software management unit performs a process for executing the downloaded software.

16. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 4, wherein:

when software represented by the software identification information is downloaded into the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium, said software management unit performs a process for comparing a version of software stored in ~~said~~ the server ~~terminal~~ and a version of software stored in the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium;

said software management unit performs a process for initiating execution of the software in the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium when both versions match each other; and

when the version of the software stored in the server ~~terminal~~ is newer than the version in the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium, said software management unit performs

a process that, after downloading the software from the server ~~terminal~~ into the ~~software~~ storage ~~area~~ medium, initiates execution of the downloaded software.

17. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein:

when the software is terminated while the portable information storage medium is being loaded into said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit, said software management unit displays, on a menu screen, an option for reactivating the software so that the software can be reactivated by input from a user; and

when the portable information storage medium is unloaded after the software is terminated, said software management unit performs a process for deleting the option for reactivating the software from the menu screen so that reactivation of the software cannot be performed in response to input from a user.

18. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected while the software is being executed, said software management unit performs a process for interrupting execution of the software, and, when the portable information storage medium is subsequently connected again after performing the warning process and activating the user-input accepting state, said software management unit executes a process for restarting execution of the software.

19. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when a user selects termination of execution of the software in the user-input accepting state, said software management unit performs a process for terminating execution of the software, a process for deleting an option for reactivating the software from a menu screen, and a process for preventing reactivation of the software in response to input from a user.

20. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is unloaded while the software is being executed, said software management unit continues execution of the software, and, when a user terminates execution of the software, said software management unit performs a process for deleting an option for reactivating the software from a menu screen, so that reactivation of the software cannot be performed in response to input from a user.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:

~~a communication step of communicating with a server terminal on a network;~~

a portable-information-storage-medium connection step of connecting ~~to~~ a portable information storage medium storing information on software to be acquired via the network to a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit;

a reading step of reading software information written in the portable information storage medium when the portable information storage medium is connected in said portable-information-storage-medium connection step, wherein the software information relates to software that is to be acquired via a network;

an information transfer step of downloading the software from ~~the~~ a server terminal ~~into an internal storage medium~~;

a software storage step of storing, in ~~a software storage area of the~~ an internal storage medium, the software downloaded ~~into said internal storage medium~~ in said information transfer step; and

a software management step of managing the software stored in the software storage area~~; and~~

~~an external-storage-medium reading step for reading predetermined information written in the portable information storage medium when the portable~~

~~information storage medium is connected in said portable-information-storage-medium connection step~~.

23. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for controlling a computer to execute an information processing method as set forth in Claim 22.

24. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 22, wherein, from the information read from the portable information storage medium, software identification information and location information on a location on the network of the software are extracted and managed in said software management step.

25. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 24, wherein, based on an instruction from said software management step, said information transfer unit step accesses the server by using the location information, and downloads, into the internal storage medium, software represented by the software identification information.

26. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 22, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected, said software management step performs a deletion process for deleting the software downloaded into the internal storage medium.

27. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 22, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management step performs an interruption process for interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the internal storage medium.

28. (New) A portable information storage medium loadable into an information processing device connected to a network, the information processing device adapted to execute software downloaded from the network, said portable information storage medium including a storage area for storing the software information including:

identification information on the software to be downloaded;

location information representing a location on the network at which the software to be downloaded is stored; and

authentication information to be used for authentication performed before downloading the software from the network,

wherein the software is downloaded from the network in accordance with the software information stored in the storage area of the portable information storage medium.

29. (New) A portable information storage medium according to Claim 28, wherein, in the storage area, one or more of a product code, a version number, information on the location on the network of the software, and a license key, which includes a serial number and which indicates that the user is an authorized purchaser, are stored as the software information.